

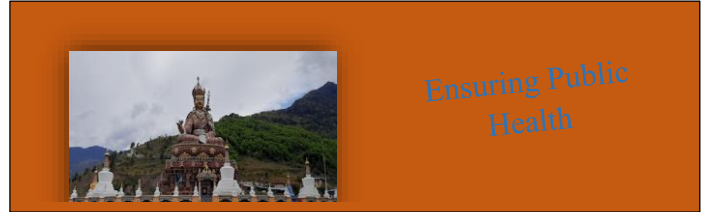


IN THE NEWS

A vibrant Dzongkhag that is culturally strong, socially cohesive, economically sound and environmentally healthy with governance ethics.



Livestock Production Alternatives



Ensuring Public Health

Efficiency of banana tree chopping machine for dairy farmers of Lhuentse

...In the heart of Lhuentse, where dairying sustains nearly every household, a game-changing machine is revolutionizing cattle feed preparation and easing the burdens of local farmers.

The initiative by the Dzongkhag Livestock sector to provide banana tree chopping machines to farmers is a significant step towards alleviating the challenges of cattle feed preparation. Dairying is an integral to rural livelihoods in Lhuentse, where almost every household relies on cattle for essential dairy products like milk, cheese, and butter. However, feeding the cattle efficiently has been a major hurdle due to the labor-intensive process of manually preparing banana plants, a common supplement used to reduce feed costs.



By introducing banana tree chopping machines on a trial basis, the Dzongkhag Livestock sector has supported seven households with an investment of 0.3 million Ngultrum funding from CARLEP-IFAD. The costs of these machines are shared between the government and the farmers on a 60-40 ratio, demonstrating a collaborative effort to improve farming practices. The chopping machines have proven to be a time-saving solution, significantly reducing the manual labor required to prepare banana plants for cattle feed.



Ngawang from Menbi has experienced firsthand the efficiency of these machines, noting that tasks which once took hours now take mere minutes. This time savings allows farmers to focus on other important farm-related responsibilities. Similarly, Aum Wangmo from Minjey highlights the benefits of chopped banana stems, such as reduced feed wastage and the decreased need for manual labor, which enhances the overall efficiency of their farming operations.



The use of chopped banana stems offers several benefits, including improved digestibility and palatability of the feed for livestock. This not only improves the nutritional quality and health of the animals but also promotes better utilization of available resources and contributes to environmental sustainability. The initiative aims to continue supporting farmers and raising awareness about the advantages of these chopping machines in the upcoming financial years.

By embracing this technological advancement, the farmers in Lhuentse are able to enhance their productivity, reduce labor costs, and improve the well-being of their livestock, thereby strengthening the backbone of their rural economy.



Contributed By: Livestock Sector

Training of Health Assistants on “*Revised Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) Manual 6th Edition 2022 and Latest Anti Rabies Vaccine (ARV) Treatment Guideline*” in Lhuentse

...Empowering health workers with cutting-edge knowledge, Lhuentse's latest training initiative is set to revolutionize immunization and rabies treatment in the district.



The District Public Health Sector, Lhuentse conducted a comprehensive training session for Health Assistants of Lhuentse District with the financial assistance from Vaccine Preventable Disease Program, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health. The training focused on the revised Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) manual and the latest Anti Rabies Vaccine (ARV) treatment guidelines. This initiative is part of the district's ongoing efforts to enhance the capacity of health workers and ensure the effective delivery of immunization and rabies treatment services.

The primary objective of the training was to:

Equip Health Assistants with updated knowledge and skills regarding the revised EPI manual.

Familiarize Health Assistants with the latest ARV treatment guidelines.

Improve the overall immunization coverage and rabies treatment outcomes within the district.

Foster a deeper understanding of the importance of adherence to updated protocols and guidelines.

The training covered various topics such as:

Vaccination Schedules: Introduction to new vaccines, modifications in the existing vaccination schedules and common diseases prevented by immunization.

Cold Chain Management: Best practices for maintaining the cold chain to ensure vaccine efficacy. Trouble shooting and fault findings/Preventive & corrective maintenance of cold chain equipment.

Immunization planning, calculation of vaccine wastage rate (WR) and wastage factor (WF)/Drop outs/Missed opportunities.

Data Reporting and Management: Improved methods for accurate data collection, reporting, and analysis to monitor immunization coverage.



The training employed a blend of theoretical and practical approaches to ensure comprehensive learning;

Lectures and Presentations: Detailed presentations by the facilitators in immunization and rabies treatment provided foundational knowledge.

Interactive Workshops: Hands-on workshops allowed participants to practice new techniques and protocols in a controlled environment.

Group Discussions: Facilitated discussions encouraged sharing of experiences and problem solving among Health Assistants.

Assessments and Feedback: Pre- and post-training assessments measured knowledge gains, and feedback sessions helped fine-tune future training programs.

The training program also integrated sensitization on electronic Bhutan Medical Supply Inventory System (**eBMSIS**) and Non-Communicable Disease (**NCD**) dashboard facilitated by Medical Store In-charge and NCD Focal point of Lhuentse Hospital respectively.

Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the training, noting significant improvements in their understanding of the revised guidelines and confidence in applying them in their daily work in regards to Vaccine Preventable Diseases. It also aims for achieving the goal of the VPD program to reduce morbidity, disability and mortality due to vaccine preventable diseases.

The key outcomes includes;

- a. Enhanced knowledge of EPI and ARV protocols among Health Assistants
- b. Improved preparedness for managing immunization programs and rabies cases
- c. Strengthened capacity for accurate data collection and reporting.



The District Public Health Sector's training on the revised EPI manual and latest ARV treatment guidelines marks a crucial step towards better healthcare service delivery. By equipping health

assistants with the latest knowledge and skills, the district is poised to improve immunization rates and rabies treatment outcomes, ultimately contributing to better public health and safety.

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Health Assistants are the backbone of Primary Health Care emphasizing on the promotion, of health, prevention of diseases and improvement of the health and wellbeing of the community. They are champions in the community reaching the un-reached populations in the community to enhance the immunization coverage by attending ORCs on the fixed schedules. The health assistant

find out the drop out children and take opportunities to vaccinate the child those who are unable to come to health facility. The health workers line list the pregnant women for the early Td vaccination and advice for the first ANC visits as well as emphasis on the importance of eight ANC visits.

The Public Health Sector remains committed to on-going education and support for its health workers,

ensuring that they are always prepared to meet the evolving healthcare needs of the community.

**Contributed By: District
Public Health Sector**



**Lhuentse Dzongkhag
Administration**